

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

S/S-O: LMATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024634

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SA, US

SUBJECT: YAMANI'S ALLEGATION OF U.S. "SABOTAGE" OF CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFERENCE

REF: JIDDA 733

1. YOU SHOULD TELL YAMANI THAT WE ARE DISTURBED BY HIS ALLEGATION TO YOU THAT THE U.S. WAS TRYING TO SABOTAGE CONSUMER-PRODUCER COOPERATION.

2. REMIND YAMANI THAT THE SECRETARY FIRST CALLED FOR A MEETING OF CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS IN ADDRESSING THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE A YEAR AGO. OUR BASIC POLICY HAS REMAINED TO SEEK A RESOLUTION OF OIL PROBLEMS THROUGH COOPERATION, NOT CONFRONTATION. YAMANI WOULD SEE THAT CLEARLY IF HE READ CAREFULLY SECRETARY'S RECENT STATEMENTS INCLUDING COMMENTS IN INTERVIEW WITH BILL MOYERS AND ENERGY SPEECH OF FEBRUARY 3. WE ARE ON RECORD AT HIGHEST LEVEL, AT MARTINIQUE MEETING OF PRESIDENTS FORD AND GISCARD D'ESTAING, IN FAVOR OF CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFERENCE. WE ARE NOW ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN PREPARATORY

DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER MAJOR CONSUMERS INTENDED TO ASSURE
MAXIMUM CHANCES OF CONSTRUCTIVE SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE.

3. TELL YAMANI THAT WE FAIL TO UNDERSTAND WHY HE
RAISED THIS MATTER WITH YOU IN THE WAY HE DID. IF THERE
IS SOMETHING WE DO NOT KNOW WHICH YAMANI HOLDS AGAINST
US ON THIS MATTER, OUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WOULD SEEM
TO CALL FOR HIS TELLING US JUST WHAT IT IS. IF A
GENUINE MISUNDERSTANDING HAS ARISEN, WE WOULD LIKE TO
HAVE IT OUT SO THAT WE CAN CORRECT IT.

4. YOU SHOULD ALSO TELL YAMANI THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED
TO REPORT PROMPTLY ANY CLARIFICATION HE MAY PRESENT
REGARDING HIS COMMENTS TO YOU ON FEBRUARY 1. HE SHOULD
ALSO KNOW THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF CLARIFICATION, WE
MUST SAY FRANKLY THAT WE FIND HIS COMMENTS TO YOU
NOT IN KEEPING WITH SPIRIT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN US.
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